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ILLEGAL ALIEN SENTENCED TO PRISON IN TRANSPORTATION CASE

SACRAMENTO -- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Assistant Special Agent In Charge (ASAC) Rick Eaton announced that CELSO VASQUEZ-GALVEZ, of Guerrero, Mexico, was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge Morrison C. England to 24 months in prison and a term of three years on unsupervised release. GALVEZ pleaded guilty on September 7, 2004 to transporting illegal aliens and admitted to not being a citizen of the United States. Parole has been abolished in the federal system, and GALVEZ will be required by law to serve at least 85% of the prison time imposed. His 24-month sentence will be served consecutively to a 1-year sentence he received on September 29, 2004, in Sacramento Superior Court on charges of felony hit and run and vehicular manslaughter.

This case was the product of an investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a division of the Department of Homeland Security.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Jason Hitt, who prosecuted the case, GALVEZ admitted in his guilty plea that in the late evening hours of May 31, 2004, he was transporting a group of nine illegal aliens from Fresno in a 1985 Chevrolet van on their way to Oregon. During that trip, GALVEZ struck Cameron Joseph Brown, 28, of Sacramento, California, at the intersection of Greenback Lane and Garfield Avenue in Sacramento, California. Mr. Brown was pronounced dead on June 1, 2004, from his injuries.

In accordance with the plea agreement, GALVEZ's sentence was increased because the offense created a substantial risk of death and serious bodily injury to others. GALVEZ will be deported from the United States to Mexico after serving his term of imprisonment.

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